

Understanding the Patterns of Unemployment in Ukhrul District of Manipur.

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Abstract

The reason or causes of unemployment may differ in different settings, but in order to address the crisis of unemployment in any setting one has to first understand the patterns of the unemployment in the area. One of the major mistakes that are often committed by policy makers is of looking at unemployment as one homogeneous concept and attends to it accordingly. But as unemployment has different types and patterns so its cure is also different. Hence the present study attempts to understand the patterns of unemployment in Ukhrul district of Manipur where it is one of the pertinent impediments the youths are facing.

The study reveals that most of the educated respondents are facing the problem of underemployment. Moreover, the huge rise in the number of educated unemployment is encouraging the employers to pay even low wage to the respondents and force them to work in poor working condition. It is also revealed that the instances of entrepreneur endeavours is not coming up mainly because of lack of infrastructure as communication facility, loan facility, electricity supply etc., which is why most of the respondents are thinking of joining insurgent groups and it also reveals the real reason for the increasing participation of youths of the area in these insurgent movements.

Key words: Unemployment; Education; Youth; Employment.

The quality of human resource decides the fortune of the overall development of any nation. Though the quality of the human resource is determined by many factors as quality of education, vocational skills, the demand of the market etc, but the motivation for youth to pursue ambitious, expensive and challenging educational training is a good secure job at the end of the course. The impediments of unemployment often demotivate youth to pursue educational training and remain unskilled. The reason or causes of unemployment may differ in different settings, but in order to address the crisis of unemployment in any setting one has to first understand the patterns of the unemployment in the area (Abbott, T., 2016) One of the major mistakes that are often committed by policy makers is of looking at unemployment as one homogeneous concept and attends to it accordingly. But as unemployment has different types and patterns so its cure is also different. There are diverse types of unemployment as frictional unemployment, chronic unemployment, casual unemployment, underemployment, technological unemployment, educated unemployment, cyclical unemployment, seasonal unemployment, classical unemployment, disguised unemployment, open unemployment, involuntary unemployment, voluntary unemployment etc. Any attempt to actually address the issue of unemployment in any area first demands the proper understanding of the pattern of unemployment that is prevalent in the place.

The present study is attempt to understand the patterns of unemployment in Ukhurul district of Manipur where unemployment is one of the major crisis that the people are facing and the government is almost unable to address. According to official reports of Employment Exchange Office Report, there are 33,918 educated youth seeking employment in Ukhurul district as on 2016 (till October). The population of Ukhurul, according to the 2011 census, is 183,998. Political observers say that, due to absence of industries in Manipur, employment opportunities are very limited in Ukhurul district. Consequently, the government sector over burdened and the state government now holding that it does not have enough funds to recruit such large numbers of education youths. But the reality shows that till 2014-15 in Ukhurul district the number of micro, small & medium enterprises is nil.

District-Wise number of EM (Part-II) Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises at District Industries Centre under the various State UT Commissioner ate/Directorate of Industries for the year 2014-15

Sl.No	District	Micro	Small	Medium	Total
1	Senapati	11	0	0	11
2	Tamenglong	10	01	0	11
3	Churachanpur	18	0	0	18
4	Bishnupur	79	0	0	79
5	Thoubal	07	02	0	09
6	Imphal West	20	06	01	27
7	Imphal East	31	10	0	41
8	Ukhurul	0	0	0	0
9	Chandel	02	0	0	02
Total		178	19	01	198

Source: Nucleus Cell / Comm. & Industry .Manipur

Moreover when we look at the trend of the number of micro, small & medium enterprises over the period from 2007-16 in Manipur, it shows that the growth is significantly slowing down.

District Industrial Potential Survey Report of Imphal West District 2014-15

Sl.No	Year	Micro	Small	Medium	Total
1	2007-08	53	1	-	54
2	2008-09	131	6	1	138
3	2009-10	76	4	1	81
4	2010-11	117	5	-	122
5	2011-12	111	10	1	122
6	2012-13	174	7	-	181
7	2013-14	164	13	1	178
8	2014-15	178	19	1	198
9	2015-16	23	0	0	23
Total		849	82	5	1097

Source: DIC, Imphal West

District Industrial Potential Survey Report of Imphal West District 2014-15

The extent of the crisis is giving birth to other problems as corruption, to quote from Singh (2011), “The estimated rates for various posts are discussed in private conversations range between Rs 3-4 lakh for a primary teacher, Rs 10-15 lakh for a sub-inspector/assistant SI of police, up to 15 lakh for a supervisor (women and child welfare), and Rs 15-25 lakh (or even higher) for a state civil services post.” Therefore, it can be said that it is alleged that every government job has a price tag in Manipur. Those youths whose family cannot afford huge amounts to be paid as bribes are not shortlisted and many of them become sensitive and vulnerable to anti-national propaganda. It is also expressed by the educated youth of Ukhrul district that they cannot even start small-scale industries in their own district as power supply is erratic and infrastructure facilities like road connectivity are extremely bad.

Therefore, many of the unemployed educated youths had gone to other states or country seeking employment and a large number of educated youth who got job placements in many industrial and services sectors in the mainland India forgot their own tradition and culture as they don’t come back to their own state. After having attempt in many job and being disqualified, frustrated youth either get addicted to drugs, started committing crime and bandit, or finally join insurgency and some other youth depend on their parents for everything including daily expenditure. As the state government cannot bring a positive change to intervene the youth that is left in the middle of nowhere, youth fall easy prey to anti-social and anti-national elements.

Therefore the present study is an attempt to understand the patterns of unemployment in Ukhrul district of Manipur, so that we can reach to some answer to the crisis. The study is focussed in Ukhrul district of 5 blocks, i.e. Chingai, Ukhrul central, Phungyar, Kamjong, Kasom. The study is carried out to

explore the patterns of the problem of unemployment in the Ukhrul District. Hence it follows an exploratory and descriptive research design as the study attempts to explore a new territory. The study area i.e Ukhrul district of Manipur is divided in to strata of five (5) subdivisions. From the specified subdivisions, youths belonging within the age group of 20 to 38 years are taken as sample. The size of the Universe is 33,918 according to 2016 October that has registered in the Employment Exchange record in Ukhrul District, Manipur. Therefore, the Sample size for the study is 600 with 4% margin of error and 95% confidence level.

Youth registered in the Employment Exchange record in Ukhrul District, Manipur.

Year	Male	Female	Total
2014 (Till December)	20,205	8,736	28,941
2015 (Till December)	21,154	9,264	30,418
2016 (Till October)	23,380	10,538	33,918

Source: Employment Exchange, Ukhrul 2016,

Methodology

The data is collected from both primary and secondary sources. For primary sources the methods of data collection are interview and observation. Interview is conducted with the help of interview schedule and non participatory observation method is used. Moreover other tools used for data collection are camera and voice recorders. For secondary sources the data is collected from books, government documents, archive materials, internet sources etc. The researcher has used non probability sampling method i.e purposive sampling as the unemployed youth are difficult to be traced particularly in the study area as they spend most of their time outside their house.

Result and Analysis

Socio economic background of the respondents

To understand the patterns of the unemployment in any social setting one has to understand the social background of the unemployed as it plays a significant role in determining the pattern. The data for the present study has been collected from 600 respondents who are unemployed and from the age group 20-40. The study is conducted on 64.0% of male and 36.0% female respondents. The age group of the respondents shows that majority of them (48.8%) are from 26-30 age group, followed by 20-25 (26.5%). The study is conducted at Ukhrul where majority are from Tangkhul tribe, which is one of the largest Naga tribe in Manipur. All the respondents for the study are from Tangkhul tribe, who practice Christianity. The educational level of the respondent reveals a optimistic picture as majority of the respondents has completed their bachelor degree (54.0%) followed by master degree (30.0%), higher secondary 10+2 with (14%) and Ph.D with (2%) in the study area (Uriah, O.A.; Ololube, N.P. & Egbezor, D.A. 2015). Because of their educational background they are also mostly (95%) multilingual who knows Manipuri, Hindi and English. When asked about the main reason for discontinuing from studies, it reveals that 50.3% respondents have discontinued as they finished their course and want to start working after that. Moreover, 21.7% have discontinued as they finished their course/studies and don't want to continue any more.

The economic status of the respondents also plays a vital role in capturing the patterns of unemployment and measuring its impact on them and their family (Khan, J.H., & Hassan, T., 2011). The

monthly household income of the respondents reveals that most of them (37.7%) have income of Rs 30,001 – Rs 45000, followed by (17.2%) Rs 15,001- 20,000, (16.8%) Rs 10,000-15000, (16.2%) Rs 25,001-3000 and finally (12.2%) Rs 20,001- 25,000. The monthly households income is also reflected in their household consumption pattern as majority (66.2%) of them have very low consumption pattern, followed by low household consumption pattern (14.2%), average 12.13. The size of the family of the respondents reveals that majority of them (63%) have big family with 5-7 members (Vikash, P. 2014). The type of household of the unemployed youth who are taken as a respondent, majority of the respondents (52.7%) have semi concrete type of house followed by katcha house 42% and finally concrete houses 5.3%. When asked about the occupation of the respondent parents, it shows that (49.0%) are practicing agriculture, (Tilak, V. R. K., 1965) followed by (13.3%) of government servant, whereas the occupation of the respondent mother reveals that 36.22% are engaged in housework whereas 36.2% are engaged in agriculture work.

Patterns of Unemployment

As the study already established the fact that the educational background of most of the respondents is good with majority have atleast graduation or above educational qualification, it is going to have an impact on the aspiration of the respondents towards the employment they are seeking. The study reveals that majority of the respondents (36.5%) wants to be in an administrative position and job, followed by (27.7%) professional job, manual job (24.2%). But the aspiration has clearly not reflected in their present status as majority of them (86.2%) are supporting themselves without any paid employment, and the source of income for supporting them without any paid employment is mostly parents (37.8%), followed by other family members (27.8%), agriculture (26.3%) and so on, hence family is playing a significant role in keeping this unemployed youth attached with their aspirations and not get distracted, (Peek, P. 2007). The source of information for getting a job, shows that the respondents are mostly (29.0%) looking for jobs through seeking assistance of friends, relatives, colleagues, followed by public employment office (22.5%) and direct application for employers, participation in a competition (18.5%). When asked the respondent about any assistance from the employment office they are getting, it expose that (82.9%) most of the respondents did not get any help or assistance from the employment office but only 7.2% of them received an advice on how to search for job whereas 5% of them received a guidance on education and training opportunities, regarding information on vacancies (3.5%) and (3.2%) received placement at education or training programmes. Hence employment exchange role in addressing the crisis of unemployment is found to more than wanting as majority of the respondent did not received any assistance from the employment office. It is asked again whether they had any vocational or technical training which reveals that majority of the respondents (64.8%) did not have any vocational or technical school training whereas 35.2% of them received vocational or technical school training. From those who had vocational training, majority (84.0%) found the education / training very useful. On the other hand, 16.0% feels that it is somewhat useful. The past work experience of the respondent shows that, most of them (27.7%) were engaged with community volunteer work followed by (19.2%) in a private company, (17.3%) in non profit organisation. When asked about whether refused any job that was offered, they hold that 88.3% of respondent have not got any chance to refuse any job as it is yet to be offered to them (European Youth Forum, 2010) . On the other hand a mere 11.7% of the respondent had refused a job that was offered. As 88.3% of the respondent did not got any chance to refuse any job, it was asked to describe about the type of unemployment but unfortunately, it reveals that (45.0%) are educated unemployment and underemployed at the same time followed by seasonal unemployment (23.0%) where it represent that all respondents who do not get job are mostly in the category of underemployed. Therefore, the educated youths who are unemployed and if their rights are violated they can be vulnerable to fall into the prey of crime and insurgency movements, therefore the respondent that have mainly been doing while looking for job (18.2%) are thinking of joining insurgency,

followed by (17.7%) of spending time with friends, (15.3%) helping in family business, (14.2%) staying at home and also responsible for household chores, (12.7%) taking additional education courses are some of the percent that the youth have been doing while looking for job. As the respondent did not get any job yet, it was asked about the satisfaction level with their area of a place to live but it reveals that it depends on according to the situation. There are respondent with fairly satisfied (30.8%), neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (25.8%), very dissatisfied (15.5%), very satisfied (15.0%), slightly dissatisfied (12.8%). It is also found that there are people who leave their job in the area. When asked about the reason, it shows that it's because of low wages (65.7%) followed by poor working condition of (8.2%). It is revealed that the problem of low wages and poor working condition is a encouraging youths to leave their jobs. When asked about the type of unemployment that is mostly seen in the study area, it makes known that the type of unemployment mostly seen in the study area is under employment (53.8%), followed by seasonal unemployment (26.0%), casual unemployment (13.8%), (Khan, J.H., Tarique, H. 2012). It also specify from the response about the respondent that the main reason for not working or looking for work is because of lack employer's requirements (23.2%), could not find suitable job (18.0%), believe no suitable work available (17.0%), personal family responsibilities (15.0%). As the lack of employer's requirement is high in the study area, it was asked to the respondent that what makes them stop from availing opportunities outside Ukhurul. The prime reason for not availing opportunities outside Ukhurul district is financial problem (47.7%), followed by family problem (23.5%), personal issues (22.5%).

Conclusion

The study shows that though most of the respondents are educated, they mostly have only educational degree; the numbers of respondents with vocational training is very few, though most of them who have the training find it useful. Moreover most of the respondents feel that the reason for their unemployment is the lack of the requirements of the employers which raises a question on the quality of the education that is provided in the state making them almost unemployable (Dev, S. M., & Venkatanarayana, M. 2011, Himanshu ;2008.) In the present study most of the educated respondents are facing the problem of underemployment where they are underemployed because their qualification does not match the job due to failure of carrier guidance, lack of skills, mismatch of salary negotiation etc. The huge rise in the number of educated unemployment is encouraging the employers to pay even low wage to the respondents and force them to work in poor working condition which are why they are forced to leave jobs and remain idle. Even after the amplification of the crisis of unemployment in the area the instances of entrepreneur endeavours is not coming up mainly because of lack of infrastructure as communication facility, loan facility, electricity supply etc., which is why most of the respondents are thinking of joining insurgent groups and it also reveals the real reason for the increasing participation of youths of the area in these insurgent movements. The only optimistic result of the study is the role played by the institution of family who are helping these youths financially and emotionally to carry on with chasing their dreams and not to lose hope.

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